

MINUTES
South Carolina Massage Therapy/Bodywork Panel
Panel Meeting
10:00 A.M., June 6, 2008
Synergy Business Park
Kingstree Building
110 Centerview Drive, Conference Room 108
Columbia, South Carolina

Meeting Called to Order

Carolyn Porter, chairman, of Greenville, called the regular meeting of the SC Massage Therapy/Bodywork Panel to order at 10:15 a.m. Other members present for the meeting included: Lou Hastings, of Travelers Rest; and Janet Shaw, of West Columbia.

Staff members participating during the meeting included: Sandra Dickert, Administrative Assistant; Lisa Hawsey, Program Assistant; and Eddie Jones, Administrator.

Mrs. Talley-Porter announced that public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the S. C. Massage Therapy/Bodywork Panel office, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building and provided to all requesting persons, organizations, and news media in compliance with Section 30-4-80 of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

Pledge of Allegiance

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Excused Absences

MOTION

Mr. Hastings made a motion, seconded by Ms. Shaw and unanimously carried, that the Panel grant excused absences for Linda Pearson and Charles Stricklin, Sr.

Approval of the November 2, 2007 Meeting Minutes

MOTION

Ms. Shaw made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hastings and unanimously carried, that the Panel approve the minutes of the November 2, 2007 meeting.

Chairman's Remarks – Carolyn Talley-Porter

Mrs. Talley-Porter stated since two of the Panel members were not present for the meeting no decisions would be made during today's meeting. She further stated a conference call would be held within the next two weeks to make any necessary decisions.

Mrs. Talley-Porter stated during a future meeting Ms. Pearson will be discussing the possibility of reducing licensure fees since there are now more massage therapists within South Carolina.

Administrator's Remarks, For Information – Eddie Jones

Advisory Opinions, If Needed, Office of General Counsel
Legislative Update, If Needed, Legislative Liaison Office

There were no advisory opinions given during this meeting.

Mr. Jones stated was one legislative issue; however, he would report on that issue during the next meeting.

Mr. Jones stated the panel members should submit their travel vouchers for expenses during the week of June 30 – July 3, 2008.

New Business

Approval of March 20, 2008 IRC Report

MOTION

Mr. Hastings made a motion, seconded by Ms. Shaw and unanimously carried, that the panel approve the March 20, 2008 IRC report.

Approval of Application

Marysue Janice Zimmerman

On April 18, 2008 the panel received a massage/bodywork application from Marysue Janice Zimmerman. On April 22, 2008 staff sent a letter to Ms. Zimmerman that the panel would review her application during the June 6, 2008 meeting and requested she attend the meeting to answer questions from the panel members.

Marysue Janice Zimmerman appeared before the panel and gave the following testimony.

Ms. Zimmerman has been practicing massage therapy in northern Virginia for twenty years and is moving to Charleston, South Carolina. She became licensed in Virginia by the grandfather clause. She did not have to submit education documents when she took the national certification exam and has taken several hours of continuing education. She has maintained her national certification for twenty years. She has been a member of AMTA for approximately twenty years. She has practiced sports therapy nationally with professional sports. Ms. Zimmerman took anatomy classes in college; however, she did not receive formal training in massage therapy. She was self-taught massage therapy by reading and studying under mentors. She is asking the Panel to waive the education requirement and allow her to become licensed in South Carolina.

Connie K. Sellers-Rothschild spoke on Ms. Zimmerman's behalf.

Mrs. Talley-Porter informed Ms. Zimmerman the panel would take her testimony under advisement and would hold a conference call with the other two panel members prior to making a decision in regard to her application.

Update on MBlex Exam and the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards

Mrs. Talley-Porter stated she had an update from the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB). She further stated the FSMTB is producing a study guide for the exam, which would be advantageous to the students. She went on to say more states have now joined the FSMTB and there are now approximately 31 states with membership in the organization. She said FSMTB is working to hold a national conference. She has received a call from Debra Persinger, chairman of the FSMTB, who was upset that AMTA sent out a hands-on report for May 2008 and June 2008 which mentioned the future of massage therapy; however, the report did not mention the FSMTB or the MBlex exam. Mrs. Talley-Porter contacted the AMTA and questioned why the FSMTB was not mentioned in the report. She went on to say it was basically an oversight.

Mrs. Talley-Porter stated the national certification board has now produced an exam, the NSL, which is not a certifying exam; however, it would allow a student to take the exam to obtain a license in the applicant's state. The exam fee is \$175. She understands that if the applicant passes the exam he/she may wait approximately four months, pay a fee and become nationally

certified. She also understands the NSL exam is the exam one would take to become nationally certified. She noted The NSL exam is comparable in cost to the MBlex exam.

Discussion on applicants licensed in other states who were not required to complete 500 hours and/or the National Certification Exam or Federation of States Exam (MBlex) in order to be licensed in that state

This matter was tabled to the next meeting.

Should these individuals be required to take additional hours and pass the required exam when the applications are received for licensure in South Carolina?

This matter was tabled to the next meeting.

Public Comments

There were no public comments made during this meeting.

Executive Session

MOTION

Ms. Shaw made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hastings and unanimously carried, that the Panel enter executive session to discuss Ms. Zimmerman's application.

Return to Public Session

MOTION

Ms. Shaw made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hastings and unanimously carried, that the panel return to public session.

Adjournment

The June 6, 2008 meeting of the SC Massage Therapy/Bodywork Panel adjourned at 11:05 a.m.